

GARRETT COUNTY GOVERNMENT – December 2013
Month in Review

Board of Education

The Board presented FY 2015 Budget funding level for the GC Public School System outlined in financial projections for forthcoming fiscal years as it pertains to County Government. The Board approved funding to the GC Public School System for FY 2015 as follows:

- *The Board of County Commissioners will approve additional funding to the GC Public School System for FY 2015 that will be equivalent to the projected \$2.2 million deficit. To balance this funding gap, \$500,000 will be appropriated from reductions in County Government expenses and the GC Public School System will be required to reduce operating expenses by \$200,000. \$1.5 million will be appropriated from the County's Fund Balance unless State of Maryland – Loss Limitation funds are approved that will offset this amount. The County will again be required to fund the cost for the teacher pension expense with the additional amount of \$235,330 for a total mandate of \$1,077,874 for Fiscal Year 2015.*
- *The Board of County Commissioners has set two conditions on this funding plan. The first condition is that the GC Public School System remains an entity participant in the GC Employee Health Care Coalition which includes County Government, the GC Public School System, and Garrett College. The County and the College are in total agreement that the Coalition remain as is. The second condition is that the GC BOE discontinues all plans to close any elementary or secondary school in FY 2015. In addition, outgoing year financial projections confirm that the County can provide operating funding to the GC Public School System that is equal to FY 2015. Therefore, the Board of County Commissioners is hereby asking the BOE to approve an official position that all public schools will remain open as long as this funding level is approved and appropriated.*

Each Commissioner, Members of the BOE, and persons in attendance provided commentary. The BOE will schedule an emergency public meeting on December 19, 2013 to take official action on this decision by the Board of County Commissioners.

Purchasing Department

- a) Bid award for HVAC Services. The Board approved an award to Rush Services, Inc. with basic Labor rates for licensed Master HVAC at \$80.00 per hour and a percentage mark-up for materials at 25%.

Department of Planning & Land Development

The Board discussed the Draft DCL Sediment Study – Phase 2. The Draft Study review included County staff and the DCL Property Owners Association (POA). No official action was required at this time and when a final draft is final a public presentation will be scheduled by the State of MD DNR.

Department of Public Safety and Emergency Management.

Status of Emergency Operations Center (EOC), training for essential County staff, emergency and operational planning of the Department with DC 2014 World Championship, and other ongoing and pending matters.

Ruth Enlow Library of Garrett County.

Plans for a new Friendsville Branch are still in the planning stages and final decision for capital funding is 2 to 3 fiscal years away, employee training programs continue, funding/budgetary points, Power Point presentation on “Serving Our Patrons with Resources and Programs and other office matters.

Miscellaneous

1. The Board appointed Gary Berkebile to the GC Soil Conservation District Board of Supervisors.
2. The Board executed a Proclamation designating December 8 to 15, 2013 and “Garrett County House of Hope Week”.
3. The Board appointed Jonathan Kessler to serve on Tri County Council for Western Maryland. This appointment will complete the remaining months of the term of Jerry Humberson.
4. The Board of County Commissioners reappointed/appointed the following persons to the GC Commission for Women:
Reappointed
a) Dorothy Andreas b. BJ Gallagher c. Joanne Harsh d. Caressa Ledford
Appointed – Marilyn Moors
5. The Board conducted their annual Legislative Review Meeting with Senator George Edwards and Delegate Wendell Beitzel. A list of all legislative issues presented on this date is on file with the Board. The Board will schedule a public meeting session on January 7, 2014 to take an official position on legislative issues presented on this date.